

FEDERAL HILL SUMMER HOUSE

FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA

Spotsylvania Co.

HABS NO. 11-4

HABS

VA

89-FRED

19-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

DISTRICT NO. 11

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PHILIP M. STERN DISTRICT OFFICER

21 LAW BLDG. FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA

HABS

VA.

89- FRED

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FEDERAL HILL SUMMER HOUSE
Fredericksburg
Spotsylvania County
Virginia

Owner: Mrs. T.W. Keim.

Date of Erection: No record.

Architect and Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Poor.

Number of Stories: One.

Materials of Construction: Wood; stone base.

Other Existing Records: See text.

Additional Data: See following pages.

HISTORICAL DATA

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According to tradition Federal Hill was built for purposes of state by order of Queen Anne by Sir Alexander Spotswood.

Mrs. Henry Theodore Wight, who purchased Federal Hill in 1905, found a record in the Congressional Library which states that "after the Revolutionary War, Robert Brook, of Virginia, bought a house in Fredericksburg and renamed it Federal Hill, after the Federalist Party, of which he was one of the founders". Robert Brook was also a Governor of Virginia.

Governor Brook sold Federal Hill to Thomas Reed Roots, esq. and two of his daughters married two Cobbs from Georgia, the ceremonies taking place in the drawing room of Federal Hill. The son of one of these unions became General Thomas Reed Roots Cobb of the Confederate Army who was afterwards shot and killed by a cannon placed in the window of this same room.

The wood panels on the chimney breasts of the dining room and the library were decorated with landscapes painted on the wood. Unfortunately, these mural decorations were later painted over by painters when repainting the house.

The Summer House on the lawn is called "the Bell House", the roof being shaped like a bell, which was surmounted by a large ball which has now disappeared. Reference: Mrs. Theodora Wight Keim in a booklet, "Federal Hill".

Philip H. Stern

Reviewed 1926, H.C.F.